

Mountain *Mover*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH | SEPTEMBER 2020

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Scattered Thoughts

by Rev. Kerry Nelson, p. 2

CCSC – A Partnership to Serve the Poor and Hungry

by Jo Ann Fry, p. 4

Scientific Faith

by Dr. Clayton Faulkner, p. 6

Faith House Birthday Celebration

by Nancy Holmes, p. 8

Rejoice in Suffering

by Rev. Junfeng Tan, p. 9

News from the Children's Ministry

by Courtney Lerch, p. 11

Pandemic in the Fall

by John Vickery, p. 13

Proclaim Jubilee Campaign - Let's Celebrate p. 16



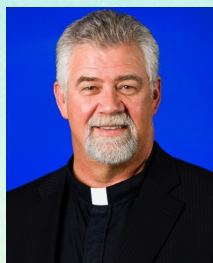
DivorceCare is a new group that will begin meeting on Sunday, September 13, from 6:00-7:00 PM. DivorceCare, like GriefShare, uses a workbook with daily readings/questions, a weekly online teaching video, and a weekly online support group gathering via ZOOM. If you are interested in participating or if you have questions, contact Pastor Kerry Nelson at revkerry@gmail.com.

**PROCLAIM JUBILEE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
CELEBRATES \$1 MILLION IN GIFTS!**

1.000.000

Scattered Thoughts

by Rev. Kerry Nelson, Senior Pastor



"Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go."

Joshua 1:7

These famous words, spoken by God to Joshua, who was chosen by God to succeed Moses in leading the people of Israel, are timeless words. They are words of infinite wisdom.

"Be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you..." We need these words today. Especially today. We can never have enough strength and courage – even if our strength looks like the courage to admit to our weaknesses. And we must never forget that the other side of God's law is God's love.

God, who wants only what is best for us. God, who walks with us through the valley of the shadow of death. God, who invites us to follow. To trust. To live. To love. To serve.

By the time you read this, we will know the damage inflicted by Hurricane Laura. We know what hurricane recovery looks like in the best of times. How much worse will it be in the Year of Covid 19?

By the time you read this, the election season will be full upon us. The full onslaught of spin and half-truths and exaggerations and character assaults and full-throated cries that it will be the end of all we know and love if our horse doesn't win the race. Don't worry. Life will go on.

By the time you read this, families with school-aged children will be scrambling to keep far too many balls in the air at the same time. Kids will

Continued on next page...

Check out FaithBellaire.InFellowship.com!

[InFellowship](https://FaithBellaire.InFellowship.com) is our secure and easy to use online tool that allows our members and guests to connect to what's happening at Faith. Through your online accounts, you will be able to:



1) Access and update your contact information

Our Privacy Settings allow individuals to determine which pieces of personal information can be viewed by others.

2) Search and manage group involvement

This allows group leaders to manage groups and contact members of their group and prospects to find and inquire about joining a group.

3) Use the church directory - **You MUST OPT-IN**

Allows users to opt in to have their information displayed in an online directory. All access to information is controlled by the user by configuring your privacy settings.

4) View your contribution statements

Once enrolled, the church office will approve the user profile and contributions will be posted to the head of household's profile.

5) Find a group

Click "Find a group" and "Search" to see a listing of current Learning Groups and Relational Groups. See topic descriptions, times and locations, and sign up to participate.

*The mission of Faith Lutheran Church is
to follow Jesus in blessing the world
with faith, hope, and love.*

Continued...

grieve all that they are missing out on. Grandparents will continue to visit via ZOOM. The death toll from Covid 19 will continue to rise.

In all of this, for all of us, there is no “normal” right now, there is only “for the time being.”

Ironically, September is National Recovery Month. A time to highlight the good news that there is always hope, even for those we might deem hopeless. There is always a way out and that way always looks like a way through. A way that always requires our willingness to take the next step – and that requires our humility to take those steps with others.

Recovery, like Christianity, is a team sport. We might not have football as we’ve known it but, in every area of life that matters, we can never forget that life only works with teamwork. The more people who realize that – who limit their exposure, wear masks, wash their hands, practice social distance – the sooner the virus will slow down. The sooner we will recover.

National Recovery Month reminds us of the direct connection between our mental health and our physical health. Addictive illnesses are rooted in the inability to live life on life’s terms. What begins in self protection ends in self destruction unless recovery happens.

The truth is, we all are capable of losing ourselves in unhealthy ways of coping with the struggles of life. No doubt millions of people around the world have found themselves coping with the coronavirus in unhealthy ways, just trying to get by, just trying to get through. Again we hear, “Be strong and very courageous” – even if our strength looks like the courage to admit to our weakness, to reach out for help, to follow the direction of others.

Recovery begins with honesty about our own powerlessness and need for help, continues to open-mindedness to possibilities of what that help might look like, and results in the willingness to do something different.

Joshua led the people with great strength and courage. He did the next right thing. He trusted God. Even with all that we are currently facing as a people, we too are rediscovering the depth of the resiliency that God has built into us. We’re rediscovering that, with God’s help, we can face whatever life throws our way. As long as we don’t try to do it alone. Or get sidetracked by shortcuts and quick fixes. Or place our hope in idols. One day at a time, we can do this.

Be strong and courageous. Together.

CREATING A BRIGHT FUTURE, ONE CLEAN HOUSE AT A TIME!

Do you dread cleaning but love that fresh, organized feeling in your home? CCSC has a solution - hire a Martha's Way graduate! There is no task too big or small. Clear out those closets, wipe away the dust, and tidy up neglected corners. Graduates are ready to work on one-time projects, or standard weekly or bi-weekly cleanings.

When you hire a Martha's Way graduate, you receive an outstanding service AND you make a difference in the life of a budding entrepreneur.

Contact Ana Tappan at 713-961-3993 or visit ccschouston.org/marthasway.



CCSC

Martha's Way

CCSC – A Partnership to Serve the Poor and Hungry

by Jo Ann Fry, CCSC Past President



Back in the 1980s, when someone who was hungry and needed assistance came to Faith Lutheran Church, the Pastor or Church Secretary would open the Food Closet (which has office supplies now) and the Clothes Closet (under the stairs) and provide food and clothing that had been donated by Faith members. The decade of the 80s in Houston is remembered for the oil bust and the bank defaults; many people lost their jobs. People who needed assistance came to our Church on a frequent basis. The Faith Food Closet did not always have enough food to provide meals for a family and the Clothes Closet frequently did not have clothing that was appropriate for the family. For these and a number of other reasons, Faith Lutheran leadership decided that our congregation could and should do a better job of serving the poor and hungry. Church Council researched the possibilities and learned that Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) would offer a way for Faith to provide assistance for those in need by partnering with other churches in our area of Houston. Congregation members voted to request membership in CCSC, our membership request was approved, and Faith Lutheran Church joined the CCSC association of churches in 1988.

When Faith joined CCSC, the congregation pledged to support CCSC operations in two ways:

- The congregation would contribute a financial gift to CCSC each year. This financial contribution is used to defray the salary expenses for CCSC staff – the people who are providing services to those in need **on behalf of** Faith Lutheran Church and others in the association.
- Members of Faith Lutheran Church would **regularly and continually** support CCSC programs. Member support includes providing financial donations to cover the cost of programs, providing “in kind” support such as groceries for the Food Pantry or Christmas gifts for *Jingle Bell Express*, or volunteering for one of the CCSC programs to assist CCSC staff in providing client services.

In the past, Faith has also provided “in kind” support by hosting the *Back to School* distribution of school supplies in our Faith Center.

In 2020, what happens when someone in need comes to Faith Lutheran Church?

In **normal times**, Faith office staff will provide a voucher to the person in need. This voucher will tell CCSC staff that Faith would like for this person to receive client services from CCSC; a map providing directions to the CCSC offices is on the

back side of the form. The person will take the voucher to CCSC where they will register and be interviewed by a CCSC volunteer. Information provided during the CCSC interview will help the interviewer determine the underlying need of the person and the type of assistance that is appropriate for the new client. The interviewer discusses ways that CCSC can help the client; the client will indicate which services they wish to accept. This assistance may include food, clothing, financial assistance with a rent payment, medical prescription, car repair, etc. The interviewer will also provide information on the CCSC employment programs if the client expresses the need for a job or a better job. The goal of the interview and more personal assistance is to help every CCSC client become self-sufficient so that, over time, the client is able to sustain the ability to provide for themselves and their family. CCSC clients continually reap benefits from this personal approach to client assistance.

During the pandemic while CCSC is operating in **disaster mode**, no vouchers are needed and no interviews are conducted. Anyone who needs food can go to the CCSC office and request it. Everyone who receives food is asked to complete a simple information sheet which includes the name of the client receiving the food and the number of people in their household. Each client will receive a food package that is appropriate for the number of people in their household. CCSC uses the household numbers to determine how many people have received food from the organization. All CCSC programs, including the employment programs, continue to offer their services so clients are able to request additional CCSC assistance.

What can we do to support CCSC during this disaster mode?

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the national food supply chain in a way that has never happened during former disasters. At this time CCSC is not able to buy the amount of food that they distribute to clients in normal times, and now they are providing food to **three times** the number of people they usually serve. One of the best ways to support CCSC right now is to purchase groceries for the CCSC Food Pantry. If purchasing and delivering groceries is not feasible for you, a monetary donation to CCSC will provide funds for groceries; a CCSC volunteer will shop for the food. Another way to support CCSC is to volunteer to distribute food at one of the food pantries. Under Pastor Tan's leadership, Faith is responsible for food distribution at the Gethsemane location on one Saturday each month. Call Pastor Tan for information.

Faith Lutheran Church has included a community outreach focus in our ministry for a very long time. But during this pandemic, some of our outreach ministries are not active and others have moved to a virtual format. Today, CCSC is "on the front lines" serving our Houston neighbors **on our behalf**; it is the one part of our congregation's community outreach that is active and is serving the poor and hungry in our community. As Christians, we are told to "serve the least of these." As members of Faith Lutheran Church and the CCSC association of churches, our pledge is to support the CCSC programs on a continuing basis. Let's all do our part to support CCSC's efforts to feed the poor in our Houston community.

(Please see the CCSC article in each of the emails sent by Faith Lutheran Church. Food donation details are provided in the emails.)



Scientific Faith

by Dr. Clayton Faulkner, Pastoral Intern



This has turned into a busy summer, despite the circumstances. I had several projects that I was managing and writing for. I had evaluations to write and submit for the completion of my internship in July. I also completed my 18-page approval essay for candidacy. This is the final document submitted before I have my approval interview in December. I was also asked again to contribute the contemporary song selections for Sundays and Seasons, Year C, 2022.

Like I said, busy. An additional project I took on was through a Science for Seminaries mini grant at Wartburg Theological Seminary. I decided to create a resource called “Scientific Faith” that dealt with some of the science in Bible stories we teach children. What made this project special is that it was a collaboration with my wife, Kate.

A lot of the inspiration for this project came from our study of Marcus Borg’s book, *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time*, back in Lent. Borg points out the conflict between two very different ways of reading the Bible: the literal/factual way and the historical/metaphorical way.

From a young age, children learn many stories from the Bible in a literal/factual way. Some of these stories feature larger than life scenarios and miracles. We encourage children to possess the faith necessary to believe that the stories are “true.”

Later in life, as children learn more about the laws of nature and the principles of science, some Bible stories need more than faith to be believed. On the surface, they require that intelligence and reason be ignored so that faith can be sustained. This poses a challenge for many adolescents engaging the stories of their childhood.

In reality, stories from the Bible and science need not be opposed. The questions that modern science raises can fit inside the interpretation of many Biblical stories. This project is an aide for teaching faith to young people that honors the science reflected in each text.

Each chapter contains a selected pericope, commonly used in teaching the faith to young people. Following each text is an overview that includes background information about the text, a description of the scientific principles mentioned in the text, and some theological takeaways that do not ignore the science.

The texts that the project examines are the creation stories, Jonah and the whale, Jesus healing the blind man, and Jesus walking on water. If anyone is interested in reading my Scientific Faith project, please let me know and I’d be happy to send it to you!

For now, a small break before I start my final year of seminary!



Save the Date - 75th Jubilee Celebration

The Jubilee Planning Team continues to meet and work towards our year of celebration. We remain hopeful that we will be able to have an “in person” kick-off in January 2021.

Currently members of the team are sorting through photos and other artifacts to prepare videos and displays for the celebration. That is where you can help. If you have photos of momentous events at Faith that you would like to share with the congregation, please scan and send them to: jubileeteam@faithbellaire.org. Please include the name of the event, the date, and where possible, the names of individuals pictured. If you have pictures you wish to share but do not have access to a scanner, feel free to contact one of the members of the team and we will try to work out a way for you to do that.

Members of the team are: George Amundson, Sara Karow, Laura Swanson, Helen Watson, Jane Gips, Nancy Caraway, and Karen Elsen. Sara, Laura, and Helen are the team members who are working on the videos, so they would be the primary contacts for pictures, etc. We look forward to sharing the many ways Faith has blessed the community around us in our 75 years of existence.



Prayer Corner - Special Times of Reflection

Read 2 Chronicles 7:11—16 and Psalm 39:12-13

“Declare to my people their transgression, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet they seek me daily and delight to know my ways.” Isaiah 58:1-2

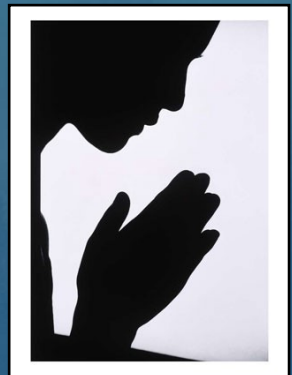
God ordained times and seasons for us to be reminded of God’s love for us. Leviticus 23 chronicles the cycle of feasts, fasts, and festivals God gave to Israel to order their lives. The High Holiday season of Rosh Ha Shannah and Yom Kippur is a unique period of reflection on sin and the need of forgiveness. Pray that God may sustain and encourage our Jewish friends!

We Christians have seasonal times in our worship year, Advent and Lent, when we read of God’s call to reflect on our sins. Yes, we have sinned. Yes we have turned to our own way.

Thankfully, God says, “If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Prayer books help guide our thoughts to the Lord by focusing on how we fall short of God’s holiness. God’s word leads us to great hope; God promised the Messiah, who would take away our sin – all of it! Hallelujah!

Pray: Lord, we are reminded of our sin and thankful for your grace and mercy! Amen.



Faith House Birthday Celebration

by Nancy Holmes, Faith House Board President



The Faith House Ministry turns 34 this month and we will be celebrating with a virtual tour of the facility. We hope you will join us on this tour.

Over the last five years you have given special birthday gifts that have allowed for major maintenance and remodeling to be completed on all of our buildings.

If you have never stepped foot in the house, join us and see how we are being a blessing to families that are in need of housing while they are receiving treatment in the Medical Center.

During the month of September in the *This Week at Faith* Thursday email you will find the virtual tour and how you can continue to support our mission. Join the celebration! Visit our website at FaithHouseHouston.org.

Happy 34th Birthday Faith House Ministry



Rejoice in Suffering

by Rev. Junfeng Tan, Associate Pastor



Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

*"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."*

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:35-39)

177,000 Americans died from Covid-19. Over 5.7 million Americans have been infected by the virus. Tens of millions of Americans have lost their jobs in the coronavirus recession. Very few of us could have imagined the magnitude of suffering and loss when the pandemic started in March. Six months have passed. There is no telling when and how the Covid-19 pandemic will end. What shall I say and do? How shall I pray? If there is a time to read, reflect on, and pray with the words of Romans 8:35-39, now is the time. Although I have found comfort and hope in this passage, I struggle to reconcile God's love in Christ with the sufferings of the world. I have to keep reminding myself that Paul knew what he was speaking of. Paul spoke from his own experiences, not from imaginations or speculations. In 2 Corinthians, Paul spoke about his sufferings as an apostle. "Five times I have received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I received a stoning. Three times I was shipwrecked; for a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from bandits, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers and sisters, in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, hungry and thirsty, often without food, cold and naked. And, besides other things, I am under daily pressure because of my anxiety for all the churches." (2 Corinthians 11:24-28) Paul's sufferings were real. His experience of God's love in Christ was even more real because it was God's love in Christ that sustained him as he went through many trials and tribulations.

I read a story of joy in the Lord in Jewish Tales of Mystic Joy by Yitzhak Buxbaum. It was told by Rabbi Mendel Mezakritim, who escaped from the Nazis and ended up in Jerusalem. Rabbi Mendel learned on the day before Sukkot in 1943 that there will be a "selection" in Auschwitz on the day of Sukkot. He was quite worried about Reb Arele because he was so weak and thin and most likely to be "selected" to be killed. To Rabbi Mendel's surprise, Reb Arele was not afraid to die, but only worried about how to build a sukkot (booth) and have Four Species for the celebration of Sukkot. On the night Sukkot began, Reb Arele came to see Rabbi Mendel. Grasping Rabbi Mendel's arm in a rapture of ecstasy, he said, "Rabbi Mendel, with God's help, I realize I now have everything I need to celebrate Sukkot with joy!" He explained that in the Talmud there was an argument about what kind of sukkot was required. He noted that a certain rabbi contended that the sukkot meant the Clouds of Glory that accompanied the Jews in the desert. "Aren't the clouds of smoke rising from the chimneys where they are burning our brothers and sisters Clouds of Glory? Aren't they a sukkah for us?" Reb Arele then went on to explain the Four Species, "Everyone knows that the Midrash says that the lulav, the palm branch, symbolizes the human spine...the myrtle symbolizes the eye... the willow leaf symbolizes the mouth...and the etrog, the citron fruit, resembles the heart. God formerly allowed us to use the different plants for the Four Species, but now he wants us to use our own bodies. If our spine bends in worship to Him alone, if our eyes are turned to Him only, if our mouths only utter His praises, and if our hearts are full of love for Him, then our bodies are like the Four Species."

The next morning, when the prisoners stood in line for the selection, Rabbi Mendel managed to stand next to Reb Arele. "He was still beaming with joy. But suddenly he seemed to become troubled. When I whispered to him, asking him what was the matter, he told me that he was worried that his heart might not be considered a perfect etrog, since it was so broken...when I reminded him ... that to God, no heart is more perfect than a broken heart, he once again became full of joy."

"When the Nazi shoved him to the left," said Rabbi Mendel, "my heart almost broke from grief, but the last words we heard on his lips were the words from the verse, 'You shall rejoice before the Lord your God.'"

Were Apostle Paul and Reb Arele religious nuts? Were their words madman's nonsense? Or had they sought God relentlessly in the midst of unspeakable pain and unimaginable suffering and found God who is more real than anything in the world? If you have suffered a great deal, I hope the words of Paul and the story of Reb Arele's joy help you find faith, hope and love during the unprecedented and challenging times.

Ways to stay connected with Faith Lutheran Church throughout the week

You can find links to join all our groups at our website: <https://faithbellaire.org/launch-day-august-23/>



SUNDAY

- 8:30 AM - Online Worship in English
- 9:30 AM - Virtual Family Learning
- 9:45 AM - Virtual Fellowship Hall
- 10:00 AM - Kindergarten-2nd Grade Group
- 10:00 AM - 3rd-5th Grade Group
- 10:00 AM - Taking Faith Home Group
- 10:00 AM - Circle of Friends Group
- 10:30 AM - The Universal Christ Group
- 10:30 AM - Parents of Young Families Group
- 10:50 AM - Online Worship in Chinese 星期天中文敬拜
- 4:00 PM - Confirmation for Middle School
- 5:30 PM - Young Adult Learning Group
- 6:00 PM - High School Learning Group

WEDNESDAY

- 10:00 AM - GriefShare Group
- 12:00 PM - The Word on Wednesday
- 7:00 PM - Weight God's Way Group
- 7:30 PM - Learning Group with Clayton Faulkner
- 8:00 PM - Chinese Learning Group 周三查经

THURSDAY

- 7:30 PM - Faith Choir Group

FRIDAY

- 6:30 PM - Women's Group with Kathy Patrick
- 8:00 PM - Chinese Learning Group 周五查经



News from the Children's Ministry

by Courtney Lerch, Children's Ministry Coordinator



Launch Day 2020 has come and gone, and we have now jumped into Fall Learning Groups. Even though things look different from years past, there are still many ways to get involved and connect with our Faith family. Given the daily uncertainty in our lives, it is now more important than ever to make the time to strengthen our own faith as well as that of our families. Although we cannot physically come to church on Sunday mornings, we can still dedicate that time for church each week. We invite you to participate in the many ways available to start our week in worship and fellowship:

8:30: Worship online

9:30 (or immediately following 8:30 worship): Virtual Family Learning

9:45: Virtual Fellowship Hall

10:00: Children's Zoom Sunday School (K-2nd grade with Courtney, 3rd-5th grade with John)

10:30: Parent Zoom Hang Out

There are also adult Learning Groups happening throughout the week. For the full list of learning groups and for the zoom links please visit the Faith website: <https://faithbellaire.org/launch-day-august-23/>.

I would like to highlight our new offering this fall: Virtual Family Learning. This new component of the Sunday morning schedule kicks off the week's Bible lesson. We sing songs, introduce the Bible story, and share ideas for a craft and family activity. We encourage families to watch Virtual Family Learning together. If families miss the initial airing immediately after 8:30 worship, the video will be on the Faith website (under the "Learning" tab) and will be posted on Faithbook on Facebook each Sunday. Faith formation does not occur solely on Sunday mornings, but rather should be ongoing throughout the week. Despite the many difficulties families face right now, our current situation is also a wonderful opportunity to create some lasting traditions for faith formation in the home. I encourage families to use the time together watching Virtual Family Learning to pick out some activities of interest for your own family and plan out your faith formation at home each week. I look forward to connecting with you all at the various Sunday morning events and to staying in touch via social media during the week!

STAYING MOTIVATED During COVID-19 Pandemic

by Mardi Mayerhoff, First Place for Health Group Leader



Do you need help getting started or staying motivated to take care of your physical and spiritual health in this season of continued mask wearing and social distancing? The First Place for Health (FP4H) group might be where you can find a way to start.

The Fall session Bible study is called “Motivated to Wellness.” For a full description of the study use <https://www.firstplaceforhealth.com/shop/motivated-to-wellness-new-9-week-study/>.

There will be an orientation meeting held virtually on Tuesday, September 8 at 7:00 PM. You will learn about how First Place for Health has been helping people improve their bodies, spiritually and physically, since 1981. Our group at Faith Lutheran Church started in 2001. Members have lost weight, studied the Bible together, made new friends, and found ways to cope in our world that changes so quickly. Men and women can participate.

Please let leader Mardi Mayerhoff know you are interested before September 8 so that she can invite you to the online platform.

If you decide to participate, Mardi will order you a “New Member Kit” (\$80 plus shipping) which will include the Bible study that we will use beginning at the meeting on September 15 through the end of the session on November 24, 2020. Our meetings will be virtual until the church can safely provide a space for group meetings.

Contact Mardi via email at mgmayerhoff@juno.com or call or text 713-203-1875. Learn more about FP4H at [firstplaceforhealth.com](https://www.firstplaceforhealth.com).



FIRSTplace
FOR HEALTH

Pandemic in the Fall

13

by John Vickery, Director of Youth and Family Ministry



The other day I got to thinking about the various major historical events that shape our lives, and how each of us remember them. For example, my parents, growing up in Washington State remember the 1980 eruption of Mount Saint Helens in a certain way. They remember where they were when the event happened, and how that felt. For me, though I was in elementary school, I remember my emotions and fear when the World Trade Center was attacked on September 11, 2001. I wonder if the Coronavirus Pandemic will have similar impacts on the children of today. I would argue that it will happen without a doubt. Last year's seniors either got a modified commencement, or none at all, groups of friends were separated across all age levels, and families were forced to isolate. And now we are being faced with the start of a new school year under the same circumstances.

While the situation may seem bleak, in many ways that evaluation is accurate. One way that we can improve our social state is through the use of technology.

One of the other thoughts that I have been having as of late is that we are hearing the terminology "social distancing" almost everywhere that we go. As I have been observing this directive, not only for my own health and safety but also for that of others, I find that wording may be influencing me in a particular way. While I am staying at home, and mostly away from those who are not a part of my family, I am still meeting with friends through Zoom, the phone, email, and other virtual means.

So, I wonder if "social distancing" is the best wording to describe our situation. I wonder if "physical distancing" would be better. My social life has not halted at all. Instead, I would venture to say that it has actually been strengthened. I have taken this time to reconnect through digital means to family and friends that live across the United States and the globe; something that I have been saying I wanted to do but could never "find" the time.

In the same ways, the church is offering many different opportunities for us to connect to each other virtually, while still staying physically distant.

Our whole self, body, mind, and spirit, needs care. And each of these items become challenges during the pandemic, but if we remain connected through all of the different virtual learning groups, fellowship halls, and worship; we can help each other ensure that our whole-self is cared for.

We are all in this pandemic together, on the same team, one body of Christ, and I look forward to "seeing" you soon!



Continue to Financially Support Our Mission Through These Challenging Times

The ministry of Faith Lutheran is made possible only by the generous financial support of our members and guests.

As we have joined the rest of the country in moving our worship life online, we anticipate a possible significant impact on our congregational finances. Your continued support of the church and mission is ever more important. Since only about 30% of our giving comes through online giving or automatic bank drafts, we run the risk of losing 70% of our financial support.



Here is how you can help...by giving online or through bank automated checks.

1. If you use the "bill pay" feature at your bank, 100% of your gift will come in a check sent directly to Faith.
2. Giving online at www.faithbellaire.org/give can be very convenient but every gift costs the congregation a small service charge if giving by credit card. Giving online can be set up to give electronically by check (no fee) or credit card and there is also a feature to set up your frequency.
3. Mail a check to the church office using one of our prepaid postage offering envelopes. **Please send an email to the church office at info@faithbellaire.org and request for us to mail some to you.**
4. If you are required to make annual IRA withdrawals, consider giving a portion directly to the congregation. Consult your financial advisor for the tax savings and charitable contribution impact of such gifts.

If you have questions about setting up online giving, processing a one time gift, or other types of gifts, please call Stacy Williams at 713-664-3381 or email her at swilliams@faithbellaire.org.

Here's our mailing address for your reference.

Faith Lutheran Church
4600 Bellaire Blvd
Bellaire, TX 77401

Salem Keenagers - Upcoming Events

The Keenagers September 10 luncheon at St John's Presbyterian Church and our September 24 bus trip have been cancelled due to the continued spread of the Covid-19 virus.

UPCOMING KEENAGER TRIPS

Mark your calendars for the following upcoming bus trip dates. More information about these trips will be coming later. Hopefully we will be able to get together again soon.

- Saturday, October 24 – No plans at this time but bus date for October
- Thursday, November 19 - No plans at this time but bus date for November
- Thursday, December 17 - No plans at this time but bus date for December

PLEASE NOTE: All payments for bus trips must be paid in full at least a week before our trip unless you are on a waiting list or unless tickets need to be purchased in advance. Please use separate checks for each event. If paying in person, please place the money in an envelope and mark on the front of the envelope: the event, the amount, and your name. Please make all checks payable to Carole Knaub as Keenagers does not have a bank checking account. Checks may be mailed to me at 1802 Thompson Crossing Drive, Richmond, TX 77406. Please call Carole Knaub at 281-344-0312 if interested in this luncheon or any of the above trips.

Remember, Keenagers is for anyone age 50 or older regardless of religious preference. Come and get involved and have fun.

Faith Lutheran Church

4600 Bellaire Boulevard at Avenue B
Bellaire, Texas 77401

Office: 713-664-3048

Fax: 713-664-3371

Faith Day School: 713-664-3233

Mother's Day Out: 713-664-7726

FaithBellaire.org

FaithDaySchool.org

FaithHouseHouston.org

info@faithbellaire.org

Rev. Kerry Nelson

Rev. Junfeng Tan

Stacy Williams

Dr. Clayton Faulkner

John Vickery

Courtney Lerch

Kendolyn Pope

Yu Cao

Alan Balias

Nettie Rodriguez

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Operations

Director of Worship, Music, and Technology

Director of Youth and Family

Children's Ministry Coordinator

Director of Faith Schools

Office Coordinator

Organist/Choir Director

Evening Facility Manager





Proclaim Jubilee Campaign – Let's Celebrate!

Celebrate what God has done through the saints at Faith Lutheran Church! You helped us reach the \$1,000,000 milestone in the Proclaim Jubilee three-year capital campaign. "Well done good and faithful servants!" (Matthew 25:23)

Total pledges received since the start of the campaign on April 7, 2019 are \$1,470,713. Per the campaign plan 10% of the gifts are donated to the Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) for their new building; 70% were designated to pay off the two loans Faith had with Amegy Bank; and the remainder to be deposited in a reserve account for future needs for Faith Lutheran Church's property and ministries. HALLELUJAH, both bank loans are paid off!

To date, more than \$95,000 has been sent to CCSC for their "A Time to Build" Capital Campaign. You can read more about the exciting progress on their new services building at <https://www.ccschouston.org/capitalcampaign/>.

In addition to paying off our mortgages, we have accumulated more than \$190,000 in our building reserve fund, which will be available for future projects at the church. And now that the debt is paid off, additional contributions to the capital campaign will continue to build up this fund for the future.

Because the people of Faith Lutheran have continued to be faithful in giving, not only to the capital campaign, but also to the general fund, ministry continues, and hope builds for a brighter tomorrow!

Thank you for your part to date in the campaign and for your future participation that will help us make our goal by April 2022.

We really can "PROCLAIM JUBILEE" in this time of uncertainty.